

CIA 36108

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24 November 1950

WATCH COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE
(PROPOSED INTERAGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURE NO. 4)

1. Attached hereto is a recommended charter for the Permanent Watch Committee. This draft has been approved by the Standing Committee members of the agencies participating in this agreement.

2. This proposed document formalizes the Terms of Reference of a committee already functioning, and currently holding regular weekly meetings.

3. The Director has placed this Item on the Agenda for the 30 November meeting of the IAC, for final consideration and acceptance.

JAMES Q. REBER
Acting Secretary
Intelligence Advisory Committee

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INTERAGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURE NO. 4

SUBJECT: Permanent Watch Committee

AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THIS AGREEMENT: Central Intelligence
Agency
Department of State
Department of the Army
Department of the Navy
Department of the Air
Force

1. A permanent interagency intelligence committee (hereinafter to be known as the Watch Committee) is hereby established for the purpose of providing timely warning of military action hostile to the interests of the United States. To this end the Watch Committee is expected:

a. To focus the attention of intelligence analysts on specific political, economic, scientific and military indicators (positive and negative) of Soviet intentions to resort to military action; and

b. To provide an effective mechanism for interagency exchange of views on this subject at the working level.

2. The Watch Committee shall act under the Chairmanship of the Central Intelligence Agency and shall be comprised of members representing the participating agencies upon the currently constituted "Check List Group" which is hereby redesignated as the Watch Committee.

3. The Watch Committee shall, in the first instance review the methods of procedure established by the Check List Group, placing particular emphasis upon emergency procedures which will insure its capability of functioning on short notice upon a 24 hour basis.

4. Each member of the Watch Committee shall have free and speedy access to his superiors, including the highest level of

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intelligence authority in his Agency, in order that emergency situations may be handled with the least possible delay.

5. The Watch Committee shall conduct frequent regularly scheduled meetings attendance at which, "except for matters of overriding urgency," shall have priority over other duties. In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings, emergency meetings will be held whenever the situation warrants.

6. The Watch Committee shall utilize the Check List and the Check List network presently employed for the above stated purposes, in the conduct of its operations.

7. Specific responsibilities of the members of the Watch Committee shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, those set forth below:

a. The CIA Chairman shall

(1) maintain the master Check List;

(2) advise the Director, Central Intelligence, and through the Watch Committee members, the chiefs of the other intelligence agencies upon items of urgency coming to his attention;

(3) convene the Watch Committee as prescribed in Paragraph 5 above;

(4) produce, at each meeting if possible and if not, after any meeting, without delay a summary report of conclusions reached as a result of the Committee's discussion and joint evaluation of intelligence information, such summaries to include any substantial dissent by a member. These summaries will be distributed to the Director of Central Intelligence and to the heads of the intelligence agencies participating in this agreement.

b. Each departmental member of the Watch Committee shall:

(1) Bring to the meetings summaries of intelligence bearing on those "indicators" and evaluations thereof which fall within his Department's particular fields of

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responsibility.

(2) Forward to the CIA Chairman and to the other member agencies:

(a) Urgent information concerning any of the indicators, together with his evaluation thereof, when such information is suggested as basis for a special meeting of the Committee.

(b) Reports of emergency action taken, if any, on intelligence items of an urgent nature.

(c) Proposals for the addition of new indicators or the deletion of indicators considered no longer valid.

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